

INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Prazska Storage Battery Works at  
Mlada Boleslav

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PLACE  
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS. 3  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF  
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The Prazska Storage Battery Factory at Mlada Boleslav (Jungbunzlau - 051/G 02) has been classified as vital to the national defense and has been placed under DOZ control. It produces lead and alkaline storage batteries.

2. The following is a breakdown of the factory's monthly production program:

4,000 - 5,000	Motorcycle batteries
1,000 - 2,000	Automobile batteries
500	Aircraft batteries
5,000	Battery plates for railway batteries

The only export products are railway storage batteries which go to Poland and Bulgaria.

a. About 65 per cent of the products are consumed domestically, as follows:

- (1) Automobile and Aircraft Factories: 30 per cent.
- (2) Military (automotive ordnance in Prolouc (051/M 58)): 10 per cent.
- (3) Civil consumption: 25 per cent (distributed through Mototechna, National Corporation, Prague XII (051/L 78)).

b. Raw Materials

- (1) Soft lead is imported from the western countries, and a delivery of 60 tons was received from Hamburg during January, 1950. At the present time there are 300 tons of soft lead in stock, which is sufficient for six months.

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- (2) Rubber battery cases are supplied by the BATA-Svit factory.
  - (3) Approximately 20,000 kgs of acid are received monthly from Kolin (051/M 38) and Usti nad Labem (Aussig an der Elbe (N51/F 44)).
  - (4) The yearly requirement for lead powder is 2,000 tons. The Pribram Mines (N50/L 53) will eventually supply most of this, but to date deliveries from Pribram have been small. Until January 1950 the factories imported the lead powder from Austria but because of a shortage of foreign exchange the Ministry of Foreign Trade has stopped further deliveries.
3. Approximately 60 clerks, 80 per cent of whom are organized into the Communist Party, and 180 workmen, 90 per cent of whom are organized into the Party, are employed here. Some of the personnel are:
- a. Antonin Klabste Plant Manager, a Czech, 35 years old, 175 cm tall, weight 85-90 kgs, black hair, an ardent Communist.
  - b. Frantisek Nalevka Production Chief, a Czech, 40 years old, 180 cm tall, weight 74 kgs, black hair, a Communist.
  - c. Josef Srb Economist, a Czech, 28 years old, 168 cm tall, weight 80 kgs, a Communist.
  - d. Jaroslav Wolf Head of Planning Section, a Czech, 28 years old, 175 cm tall, black hair, a Communist.
  - e. fnu Stechr Political Secretary, a Czech, 45 years old, 175 cm tall, sparse hair, a Communist.
  - f. fnu Salava Social Referent, a Czech, 26 years old.
  - g. Josef Cerny Militia Commander, a Czech, 28 years old, 185 cm tall, weight 110 kgs, dark hair, a Communist.
4. The shop is made up of a foundry with six smelting furnaces, a molding station which has a daily capacity of 10,000 storage battery plates, a maintenance shop, assembly shop, locksmith shop, two pebble mills, and generators for the production of direct current.
5. In addition to the main plant at Mlada Boleslav, there are several branch factories, located at Usti nad Labem, Radotin (050/L 77), Ceska Lipa (Böhmisch Leipa - 051/F 85), Praha XIII, Brno (P50/N 40), and Hradec Kralove (Königgrätz - 051/G 71).
- a. Workshop at Ceska Lipa
    - (1) This shop is made up of 4 direct current sets with a total of 2,200 amps; 1 100 hp steam engine, and a maintenance shop.

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- (2) Two types of heavy starting storage batteries are produced here at the rate of 1,500 to 1,800 per month. Customers for the products are: civil consumption - 25 per cent, Ministry of Defense - 20 per cent, CSD (Czechoslovak railways) and National Enterprises - 55 per cent. The yearly turnover for the workshop amounts to approximately 83,000,000 Kcs. As of 1 February 1950, 60 tons of soft lead and 50 tons of lead powder were in stock.

- (3) Some of the personnel are:

Jnu Hlavaty	Head of the Works Council, 40 years old, 180 cm tall, weight 72 kgs, a Communist.
Frantisek Rukavicka	Head of the KSC Organization, 28 years old, 170 cm tall, weight 70 kgs, black hair, an ardent Communist.

At the present time, the positions of Shop Manager and Shop Administrator are not occupied. About 9 clerks, all of whom are anti-Communists, and about 70 workmen, 20 per cent of whom are Communists, are employed here. There is no militia stationed at the workshop, only an armed gatekeeper.

b. Factory at Usti nad Labem (formerly Elka Workshop)

- (1) This shop is made up of 2 direct current charging sets, with a total of 400 amps, 3 foundry boilers, and a maintenance shop.
- (2) Small storage batteries make up three-fourths of the plant's production with radio cells and portable telephone batteries accounting for the remaining 25 per cent. Total annual turnover is about 50,000,000 Kcs. The Elektra Works and the Czechoslovak Broadcasting Corp. are the two biggest customers. Raw materials come from the factory at Mlada Boleslav, and at the present time 50 tons of soft lead are in stock. Lead powder which is used here is made on order only.
- (3) About 10 clerks and 70 workmen, 60 per cent of whom are organized in the KSC, are employed here. Some of the personnel are:

Vaclav Krejcik	Shop Manager, 38 years old, 175 cm tall, weight 75 kgs, dark hair, a Communist.
Jnu Lopata	Shop Administrator, 40 years old, 185 cm tall, weight 75 kgs, a Communist.
Jnu Ruzicka	Head of Planning Section, and an anti-Communist.

There is no militia stationed at the workshop.

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## c. Branch at Radotin (formerly Asta Workshop)

- (1) This shop is made up of 2 rolling machines, a cutting machine, a perforating machine, and 4 foundry boilers.
- (2) Traction and railway storage batteries and alkaline cells are produced here. At the beginning of January 1950 a delivery of active substance was received from Sweden for manufacturing alkaline plates. Yearly turnover for this plant amounts to about 60,000,000 Kcs. The storage batteries produced here may be used in ships and submarines.
- (3) About 15 clerks, 70 per cent of whom are organized in the KSC, and 60 workmen, 50 per cent of whom are organized in the KSC, are employed here. Some of the personnel are:

Jnu Ambroz

Shop Manager, 50 years old,  
180 cm tall, weight 90 kgs,  
greyish hair, an ardent  
Communist.

Jnu Cihak

Shop Administrator, 52 years  
old, 170 cm tall, weight 75  
kgs, grey hair, a Communist.

There is no militia stationed at the plant.

## d. Repair shops are located at:

- (1) Praha XIII, SNE St. No. 1 - Manager: Karel Bubicek.
- (2) Brno, Uhelna St. - Manager: Karel Blazek.

## 6. The following storage battery factories are still in private hands:

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- a. Bratri Svobodove at Ruzyn (Rusun - N51/L 68). Prague
- b. Lorenz a Saba at Praha VIII.
- c. Bratri Zedkove at Praha V.
- d. Slovakum at Trnava (P49/L 22)

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These factories do an annual business of 50-60,000,000 Kcs.

- Attach: I - Sketch of the Mlada Boleslav area and the main plant and branch factory.  
 II - Sketch of the Usti nad Labem branch factory.  
 III - Sketch of the Ceska Lina and Radotin branch factories.